

### **Pension Application for John Kniffin**

W.12046 (Widow: Rachel) Married at Marlborough, Ulster County by a Baptist Minister, Alanson Draper in 1829. John died 1838.

B.L.Wt.25,584-160-55

State of New York

Ulster County SS.

Personally appeared before me Abraham D. Soper First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Ulster aforesaid John Kniffin a resident of the Town of Marlborough in said County, to me personally known, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth depose and say.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as herein stated, on the second day of February 1776, at Newburgh in the County of Orange, he enlisted to serve for the term of one year in the Continental service, under Captain John Belknap in the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Clinton, deponent continued to serve therein until the second day of March 1777, being one month over the said term of one year, during this time said Regiment was stationed at Fort Montgomery in the highlands in the said County of orange, and most of the time engaged in building said Fort and the barracks belonging to the same.

The reason why deponent continued to serve one month over his time was in consequence of the three years men not as serving at said Fort in time to relieve the company to which deponent belonged. Zachariah Hasbrouck was first Lieutenant Henry Paulding second lieutenant and David Hunter Ensign in said Company.

General Washington and General George Clinton were there a part of said time. A company of Artillery from the South and another from the east, were at said Fort during a part of said term of service—

Thurston wood whose affidavit is hereunto annexed belonged to said Company with this deponent—Deponent returned home after the above service, and was enrolled in the Company of Militia out of which he had enlisted, commanded by Captain Arthur Smith which said Company was kept in constant readiness, for actual service on alarms and also furnished to number men from the classes into which it was divided.

In the summer of said year 1777 deponent with said company was called out on an alarm, and went to Fort Montgomery and was absent at this time from home eight or ten days. A short time afterwards deponent served for his class one month at Fort Montgomery under Captain Arthur Smith, and again in the fall of that year, at the time Fort Montgomery was taken by the British, deponent with said Company was called out on the alarm, but did not arrive at the Fort before it was taken—but continued in the service while the British were giving up the river, and until after they had burnt Kingston, and returned down the river, below the highlands—said company was engaged in guarding the shores of the river, and continued out at this time for three weeks, at Nicholas Point and Newburgh in the county of Orange, under Captain Bowdoine Terpenning, Colonel Hardenburgh commanded the militia at these places—

deponent acts as orderly sergeant in Captain Smith's Company, and also under Captain Terpenning. William Mitchel whose affidavit is hereunto annexed was with this deponent in the two last mentioned terms of service and belonged to Captain Smith's Company.

In the spring of the year 1778 deponent again served for his class one month and lay at West Point in the highlands in said County of orange, under Captain Smith at this time, a large number of Continental Troops, mostly Artillery lay there, but under the command of whom, deponent has forgotten—

In the same year deponent was out in service for his class one month, on the Indian Frontier at Mamakating in the County of Ulster at that time, but now Sullivan County, under Lieutenant Johnson and Foster.

In the year 1779 or eighty, deponent was out again in service for his class for one month under Lieutenant Foster, on the Indian Frontier, at Mamakating aforesaid Colonel Paulding commanded on said Frontiers—deponent recollects Ebenezer Chase at this time who was in the nine months service, whose affidavit deponent expects to procure.

Deponent further says that he cannot at this late period of time, particularize any other times of actual service, that as above set forth—that during the aforesaid years, he acts as orderly Sergeant in the Militia, and was engaged a great many other times for short periods the counties of Ulster and Orange, were threatened by the British on the fourth, and the Indians and Tories on the west, which with the disaffected persons among us required the militia to be prepared at all times during the aforesaid years, to march at a moments warning on alarms being given, which occasioned them to spend much more time than there actual terms of service.

In answer to the interrogatories required to be put to applicants for a pension. Deponent says he was born in the Town of NewBurgh then in the said County of Ulster but now in the County of Orange on the twenty fourth day of November 1753—

He has a record of his age in his bible. Deponent lived at NewBurgh aforesaid at the several times he was called into the service above set forth and ever since the revolutionary war he has lived at NewBurgh aforesaid and in the Town of Marlborough in said County of Ulster, where he now resides.

Deponent entered the aforesaid service at all times as a volunteer.

Deponent recollects at Fort Montgomery of seeing Captain Matchin of the Artillery, in addition to the officers above named. He saw many others but cannot now name them neither can he state any other general circumstances of of [sic] his service than as above set forth—Deponent never received a written discharge, when the terms of service were expired the men were verbally dismissed.

Deponent is well acquainted with the Reverend John H. Leggett of whose church deponent is a member, and also with Allen Lester Esqr, Andrew Ely Esqr, Nathaniel Belly, and many others residing in his present neighborhood, who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

And this deponent further says that by reason of old age and bodily infirmity, ever since April last when he had a paralytick stroke, he has been unable to attend the Court of Common Pleas held in and for the said County of Ulster, which is held at Kingston in said County about twenty eight-miles from the residue of this deponent – neither does he expect or believe that he will be able to attend said Court at any time hereafter.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) John Kniffin

Subscribed and sworn the ninth day of September 1833, before me. A. D. Soper, First Judge &c.

Letter in folder dated September 9, 1937, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War records of Jacob Bodine, of Ulster County, New York, who was born May 15, 1742, served from Ulster County and died November 24, 1824, in Montgomery County, New York, his wife being Elizabeth Newkirk; also, of John (Jonathan or Johannes) Kniffin or Snuffine who served from Ulster County, New York.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service in the Revolutionary War of a Jacob Bodine. The record has been found of a John Kniffin of Ulster County, New York, which follows as show in pension claim, W.12046, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

John Kniffin was born November 24, 1753, in Newburgh, in that part of Ulster County which later became Orange County, New York. The names of his parents are not given.

While residing in Newburgh, New York, and serving in a company of militia which was held in readiness to serve on alarms, John Kniffin volunteered February 2, 1776, and served as private in Captain John Belknap's Company, Colonel James Clinton's New York Regiment, stationed at Fort Montgomery which he assisted in building, and was discharged March 2, 1777, after which he returned to the company of militia out of which he had volunteered, commanded by Captain Arthur Smith. He then served on several alarms as orderly sergeant in Captain Arthur Smith's New York Company, one tour of eight or ten days in the summer of 1777 at Fort Montgomery; shortly after, one month at the same place, and a third tour of three weeks in the fall of 1777 engaged in guarding the shores of the Hudson River. Immediately after, he volunteered and served two months as orderly sergeant in Captain Bardowine Terpenning's company, Colonel Hardenburgh's New York regiment. He volunteered in the spring of 1776 and served one month as orderly sergeant in Captain Arthur Smith's company. In the same year, he served one month under Lieutenants Johnston and Foster on the Indian frontier in that part of Ulster County which was later Sullivan County, New York. He volunteered in 1779 or 1780 and served one month as orderly sergeant under Lieutenant Foster in Colonel Paulding's New York regiment, again stationed on the Indian frontier.

After the war the soldier resided for a time in Newburgh, then moved to Marlborough, Ulster County, New York, where he was allowed pension on his application executed September 9, 1833, and where he died February 23, 1838.

John Kniffin married in 1829 in Marlborough, Ulster County, New York, Rachel \_\_\_\_\_. The date and place of her birth, names of parents of her maiden name were not shown. They were married by a Baptist minister names Alanson Draper.

Soldier's widow, Rachel Kniffin, was allowed pension on her application executed June 15, 1854, at which time she was aged eighty-three years and the resident of Newburgh, Orange County, New York, where she was still living in 1856.

No names in the claim were designed as those of children of John Kniffin and his wife, Rachel.

The following persons stated in 1854, they were present at the marriage of John Kniffin and Rachel, but their relationship to the family or to each other was not shown: Dewitt W. Kniffin aged thirty-five years, Mary Kniffin aged sixty years and Chester Kniffin aged forty-three years, also one Ellen M. Merritt, all of whom were residents of Marlborough, Ulster County, New York.